Instructions for Readers Compline Services in Great Lent

All services are posted at www.antiochian.org/liturgicday.
Click the calendar at the top of the page, and also scroll down to "Seasonal Liturgical Resources."

Great Compline: Use these instructions with the full texts

English: (PDF) (RTF) // Arabic (PDF) (RTF)

- This service should be sung or said on Mondays-Thursdays of Great Lent.
- For all of the priest's exclamations like "Blessed is our God" and "For Thine is the Kingdom," the lead layperson instead says "Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen."
- Omit phrases like "Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord" and any blessings the priest may give, like "The Peace."
- If laypersons cannot chant a particular hymn or canon, they may read it.
- All prayers assigned to the priest, such as "The Prayer of Manasses" and "The Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian," can be read by laypersons.
- No censing is to be done.
- In the first week of Great Lent, we read or chant the quarters of the Great Canon of Repentance by St. Andrew of Crete, prostrating where the text instructs. See the calendar for the daily quarter.
- In the first week of Great Lent, the lead layperson reads a gospel lesson. He introduces it only by saying: "The reading from the holy gospel according to saint N." There is no gospel reading outside of the first week of Great Lent.
- After the phrase "In thee, O Mother of God, I place all my hope; keep me under thy protection" on page 18, skip ahead to the prayer "Forgive, O Lord, those who hate us and those who oppress us" on page 21. Laypersons can read this prayer.
- Then, skip the dismissal and final petitions of the priest that laypersons cannot say, chant the hymn appropriate to the day of the week on page 22, and conclude the service with "Through the prayers of our holy fathers..."

Little Compline with Akathist Hymn: Use these instructions with the full texts

English Weeks 1-4: (PDF) (RTF) // English Week 5: (PDF) (RTF)

- This service should be sung or said on the first five Fridays of Great Lent.
- For all of the priest's exclamations like "Blessed is our God" and "For Thine is the Kingdom," the lead layperson instead says "Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen."
- Omit phrases like "Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord" and any blessings the priest may give, like "The Peace."
- If laypersons cannot chant a particular hymn or canon, they may read it.
- All prayers assigned to the priest, like the prayers of Paul the Cenobite and Antiochus the Monk, can be read by laypersons.

- No censing is to be done.
- The Akathist Canon and the kontakia and oikoi of the Akathist Hymn can be read or plainly intoned by laypersons.
- In the first week of Great Lent, the lead layperson reads a gospel lesson. He introduces it only by saying: "The reading from the holy gospel according to saint N." There is no gospel reading outside of the first week of Great Lent.
- After the phrase "In thee, O Mother of God, I place all my hope; keep me under thy protection" on page 18, skip ahead to "The Prayer to the Guardian Angel" on page 19. Laypersons can read this prayer.
- Then, skip the dismissal and final petitions of the priest that laypersons cannot say, chant the hymn "Awed by the Beauty," and conclude the service with "Through the prayers of our holy fathers..."
- **These instructions also apply to Little Compline with the Canon of the Raising of Lazarus on the sixth Friday of Great Lent. (PDF) (RTF)**

Little Compline with the Great Canon of Repentance and the Life of St. Mary of Egypt: Use these instructions with the full texts (PDF) (RTF)

- This service should be sung or said on either the fifth Wednesday or fifth Thursday of Great Lent.
- For all of the priest's exclamations like "Blessed is our God" and "For Thine is the Kingdom," the lead layperson instead says "Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen."
- Omit phrases like "Bless, Father, in the Name of the Lord" and any blessings the priest may give, like "The Peace."
- If laypersons cannot chant a particular hymn or canon, they may read it.
- All prayers assigned to the priest, like the prayers of Paul the Cenobite and Antiochus the Monk, can be read by laypersons.
- No censing is to be done, and there is no gospel reading.
- Laypersons should take turns chanting or reading the Great Canon of Repentance, and reading the Life of St. Mary of Egypt.
- Laypersons should then take turns saying the final prayers starting on page 42.
- Then, skip the dismissal and final petitions of the priest that laypersons cannot say, read or chant the final hymns and read the Synaxarion at the end of the service, and conclude the service with "Through the prayers of our holy fathers..."